SEISDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(Mr. H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.)

AND

Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. ERNEST MANTELL, M.S.I.A.)

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

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Penn Fields,
Wolverhampton,
March 12th, 1914.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Fourteenth Annual Report, viz., for 1913.

The estimated population at last Mid-summer was 15,596, being an increase of 521 above the Census of 1911, viz. :—

Patshull	5
Wombourn	375
Tettenhall	120
Kinver	21
	521

The Births were 328, which give a rate of 20·9, an improvement on last year's rate, which was only 18·9, the lowest recorded.

The corrected Deaths numbered 165, with the exceedingly satisfactory rate of 10·6, even lower than 1911, when it was 10·9, and the lowest then recorded, the average being 12·6. This is no doubt due partly to climatic causes, but also I have every reason to believe to the improved sanitary state of the district and the large amount of work done on the houses of the poor. I also believe that the much larger amount of treatment that the working classes receive under the National Insurance Act, not to mention the medical examination of school children, will have a very large effect on their health and length of life.

Again we have had a large number of deaths from Cancer, viz., 17.

From Diarrhœa and Dysentery there has actually been only one death. This fact no doubt was due to the moderate temperature; but these complaints will be much more kept in check by better sanitation, and especially by rapid removal of all house refuse before the house-fly has time to hatch out. This was more strongly impressed upon us than ever at the Health Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health that I attended in Paris last Spring.

The small number of deaths of children under one year commented on in my report for 1912, when there were 25, giving a rate of 86·5 per 1,000 births, compared with 127, the average for England was quite eclipsed by there being only 16, with a rate of only 48·7.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications was large, namely, 111, which was swelled very considerably by 63 cases of Scarlet Fever, of which 34 were in Wombourn district, 28 in Kinver, and only one in Tettenhall Rural.

Kinver no doubt suffered comparatively severely on account of being a favourite resort of people from Birmingham, where the disease has been rampant so many months; indeed it seems remarkable and very creditable that our neighbouring Borough has kept so very free.

From this disease there was not one death in your district. Of the 63 cases mentioned above, 58 were removed to the Bratch Isolation Hospital, which was empty from May 13th to May 24th.

Of Tuberculosis of all forms 22 cases were notified.

Of the benefits that we have received from Sanatorium and Dispensary treatment this year I have seen

little. These cases have been visited, and literature on the subject of the contagious character and general treatment of this disease has been distributed.

There were twelve cases of Diphtheria and Croup, with two deaths. Most of these cases were injected with anti-toxin, which you have done wisely by granting *free*. It will be a comparatively small expense to you, but a relief to those responsible for the patient.

Of Enteric Fever we have been free.

Measles and Whooping Cough were not so plentiful as usual, but were responsible for the Codsall, Enville, and Bobbington Schools being closed for some weeks.

SANITATION.

The most important item under this heading is the Kinver Sewerage Scheme, which is now nearing completion, and I understand you have entered into further contracts for the construction of a sewer to the Lock, a much-needed addition, and also for the making of the house connections.

The further sewer to the Lock will enable proper sanitary conveniences to be provided by the Tramway Company at the terminus of the light railway.

WOMBOURN.

Refuse and Excrement Removal.

I am pleased to be able to report that you have now undertaken this work, and have appointed a contractor for the purpose. This should bring about a great improvement in the sanitary conditions of the Parish, as the accumulations will be removed much more often than formerly.

In the Autherley District plans for a new and improved scheme for dealing with the sewerage of this

district have been approved by your Council, and the work is now being proceeded with.

CODSALL.

Some slight improvement has been made in the sanitary state of this village by covering in objectionable ditches and paying more attention to the outfall sites.

WOMBOURN.

The sewer outfalls have been improved so as to give better distribution of the sewage on the land.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are now eighty-one dairies, cow-keepers and milk-sellers, nine having been registered during the year. Twenty notices of defects have been served, and these defects have been remedied.

Slaughter-houses, twelve in number, have been regularly inspected and have been found clean and in fairly good condition.

The workshops and bakehouses, numbering fifty-four, of which thirteen are bakehouses, have all been inspected, and notices have been served where necessary.

WATER SUPPLY.

Kinver. A new main has been laid for the supply of properties at Whittington, and I understand that you have also now arranged to lay on further mains for the supply of properties at Dunsley.

Eight more houses have been connected with the mains.

In Wombourn Parish four more houses have been supplied with tap water.

In Trysull two more cottages and the schools have been supplied with tap water.

In Penn Parish thirty more houses have been supplied with tap water.

In Codsall fourteen houses with the same.

Bobbington. The water supply in this Parish is to a large extent doubtless polluted, as six samples analysed have all been polluted and certified as unfit for drinking purposes. As you are aware this neighbourhood is, as well as a large portion of your southern area, soaked with sewage from several large sewage works.

To supply this Parish with tap water, I understand, is your immediate intention.

Pattingham. The needs of this Parish have been for some time under your consideration, and I understand your Surveyor is preparing a scheme for supplying the village with water, which will probably be by distributing mains from a reservoir.

HOUSING.

Only twenty-seven new houses have been erected this year, compared with sixty last year. Of the new houses, twenty-three are in Penn Parish.

This I consider a serious falling off; and now that the new branch of the Great Western is cutting through so large a part of your district, opening up the Rural parts of it so much, houses are in great demand (especially by railway employees), and are, in fact, not to be had in Wombourn, where there have always been empty ones of late years, even though some were of a poor description.

The house-to-house inspection of all the working-class houses in the district was completed in 1912; parish by parish having been inspected. Nine hundred and fifty-eight houses have been re inspected, and it was found that 91 per cent. of the notices already served had been complied with satisfactorily; besides which five hundred and fifty-three inspections have been made in the ordinary routine of work.

Independent of the Housing Act, notices were served in respect of 362 nuisances.

For further details I would refer you to the appended Inspector's Report.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.

To the Rural District
Council of Seisdon, Staffs.

TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths Belonging to the District.			
							of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Un-corrected Number.	Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate*			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate *
1908	14608	355	355	24·3	187	12·8	..	6	28	77·8	193	13·2
1909	14861	317	317	21·3	195	13·1	..	17	36	113·5	212	13·2
1910	15029	310	310	20·6	170	11·3	..	9	32	103·2	179	11·9
1911	14864	343	343	23·1	150	10·1	..	13	30	87·4	163	10·9
1912	15221	289	289	18·9	172	11·3	3	22	25	86·5	191	12·5
1913	15596	326	328	20·9	150	9·6	12	27	16	48·7	165	10·6

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 43,533. Total population at all ages, 15,075. (At Census of 1911.)
Number of inhabited houses, 3,546. Average number of persons per house, 4·25.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District:—The Workhouse, Trysull.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—General Hospital, Women's Hospital, and Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton; Guest Hospital, Dudley, and Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality			Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	Above 65.	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Croup). ..	12	..	1	7	3	..	1	..	5	..	7	1
Erysipelas ..	13	..	..	1	..	8	1	3	1	2	10	..
Scarlet Fever .	63	..	6	49	4	3	1	..	1	28	34	58
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	13	..	1	4	2	3	2	1	7	3	3	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	..	1	4	3	1	..	..	3	2	4	..
Totals ..	111	..	9	65	13	15	5	4	17	35	59	59

Isolation Hospital, Bratch, Wombourn. Total available Beds, 30.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

TABLE III

Causes of and Ages at death, during the year 1913.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes — Certified ..	165	16	5	6	8	3	16	36	75	13
All Causes — Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	2	..	..	1	..	..	.	1	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	7	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	1	..
Tuberculosis Meningitis..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	17	..	..	..	1	..	1	7	8	2
Meningitis	3	..	.	1	..	..	1	..	1	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	21	1	..	..	..	..	3	4	13	4
Bronchitis	9	1	..	..	..	..	.	..	8	..
Pneumonia, all forms ..	11	1	3	2	2	..	2	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	..	..	..	..	..	.	2	..	..
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.. ..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide.. ..	9	1	..	..	3	..	1	2	2	1
Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	38	6	..	..	1	..	4	8	19	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	23	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	4
All Causes ..	165	16	5	6	8	3	16	36	75	13

TABLE IV.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes — Certified ..	6	2	..	..	8	..	4	..	4	16
All Causes — Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Convulsions	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pneumonia .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Injury at Birth	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Premature Birth	3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
	6	2	..	..	8	..	4	..	4	16

Nett Births in the Year .. { Legitimate .. .. 310.
Illegitimate .. .. 18.

Nett Deaths in the Year .. { Legitimate .. .. 12.
Illegitimate .. .. 4.

Penn,
Nr. Wolverhampton,
February 20th, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the following Report of the nuisances and various matters brought under my notice and dealt with during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

During the year I have made 1,511 visits and inspections in the course of my various duties. The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon, amounted to 362. Of these, 329 were remedied, leaving 33 remaining on the books at the close of the year.

NOTICES FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

During the year 257 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances. Of these 238 were informal notices and 19 statutory notices. In addition 1,107 letters and circulars were sent out.

No prosecutions were necessary to enforce the abatement of nuisances during the year.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints of various matters received amounted to 42. All these were investigated, and action taken where found to be necessary.

The Nuisances dealt with are summarised as follows—

Houses disinfected, after Infectious Disease	66
Schools ditto ditto	2
Houses put into habitable condition, under the Public Health Act	7
Houses repaired (roof, floors, walls, stairs, etc.) ...	29
House cleansed (dirty walls and ceilings)	16
Houses provided with means of Ventilation	9
Houses supplied with Tap Water	1
Pumps repaired	2
Samples of Well Water analysed	6
Defective Water Fittings reported to Waterworks Department	5
Drains repaired, trapped, provided or reconstructed...	29
Midden Privies converted to Water Closets or Pan Closets	12
Ashpits repaired or reconstructed	18
Ashpits emptied or cleansed	30
Galvanised Iron Ashbins provided	28
Sinks and Water Closets repaired	8
Spoutings provided or repaired	7
Offensive Accumulations removed	15
Nuisances from keeping of Animals removed ...	2
Cesspools provided	2
Cases of Overcrowding remedied	1
Gipsy Camps removed	3
Contravention of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops' Order, 1885, remedied	20
Slaughter-houses cleansed and repaired	2
Workshop and Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	7
Bakehouses repaired	1
Canal Boats—Contraventions remedied	1
Total ...	329

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

In connection with the house to house inspection, I have made a second inspection of the parishes of Bobbington, Codsall, Enville, Himley, Kinver, Lower and Upper Penn, Swindon and Trysull and Seisdon. With reference to the notices which were served under the above Act, I have visited 958 houses in these parishes to ascertain if the requisitions of the notices had been complied with. This branch of the work has taken up a considerable portion of my time, both as regards inspection and clerical work. I have had numerous interviews with property owners and builders on the different properties in order to advise what improvements were necessary to fulfil the requirements. A large amount of work has been carried out, 91 per cent. of the notices having received attention up to the end of the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Upon receiving notice from your Medical Officer of Health of the occurrence of infectious disease in any house, the houses are inspected, and any sanitary defect is dealt with. Disinfectants are supplied where necessary. During the year I received notices of 63 cases of Scarlet Fever, 12 of Diphtheria, one of Puerperal Fever, and 29 of Tuberculosis. Of the Scarlet Fever cases 58 were removed to the Bratch Isolation Hospital. After removal or recovery of the patients the houses and bedding were disinfected. During the year I disinfected 66 houses and two schools.

WATER SUPPLY.

Six samples of well water were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, five of which were reported as being polluted, and unfit for drinking purposes. These samples were from Dunsley in Kinver Parish, and Gospel Ash and Bobbington in Bobbington Parish. Notices were served upon the respective owners to provide proper supplies of water. One house at Oaken Lawn, in Codsall Parish,

was found to have a polluted well, and notice was given to the owner to lay on a supply of tap water, which was duly complied with.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS' ORDER, 1885.

The number of persons registered to sell milk in the district, either as cowkeepers, dairymen or purveyors, amount to 81. Seven cowkeepers and two purveyors have been registered during the year. Periodical visits were made to different premises, and any contraventions of your Council's Regulations were brought to the notice of the occupiers and duly rectified. In 20 instances notices were given with regard to defects, which were afterwards remedied as follows :—

15 cowsheds cleansed and limewashed.
Two cowsheds provided with means of lighting.
Two cowsheds provided with means of ventilation, and
One unregistered milkshop registered.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 12 slaughter-houses in the district, of which only seven are regularly used. Frequent visits were paid to the different premises. The slaughter-houses have been kept in good condition generally. The periodic limewashing as required by your Council's bye-laws has been regularly carried out. In one instance I found it necessary to give notice to the occupier to limewash, and repair the floor and roof. With this exception the conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. No bad meat has been detected during the year.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

The number of workshops and workplaces on the Register is 54, of which 13 are bakehouses. All these have

been inspected, and notices given to cleanse and limewash four workshops and three bakehouses, and to repair one bakehouse ceiling.

CANAL BOATS' ACTS.

During the year I have inspected 18 canal boats while passing along the canals in the Seisdon Rural District. These boats were registered to carry 64 persons.

The total number found occupying these boats was 55, of which 42 were men, five women, and eight children. All the boats were found to be in a clean condition and in good repair generally. One infringement of the Regulations was found, viz., no Registration Certificate on board, which defect was remedied after a notice had been sent to the owner. No case of infectious disease was discovered on any of the boats.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Twelve licenses were granted during the year for the storage of petrol (or motor spirit) and carbide of calcium. All the different premises were inspected, and in one instance I had to caution the occupier for carelessness and not taking due precautions. With this exception, your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts appeared to have been duly observed.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST MANTELL, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.